

December

Magic Lantern Society
US and Canada

NEWS 2015



Be Sure to LOOK for those Buttons and roll-over effects

This the Season to See the Show, Click the slide Below

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Call for Presenters for the 2016 New Orleans Convention

I am putting out a call for presenters for the 2016 Magic Lantern Society of the US & Canada's Convention from Oct. 6-9, 2016. We are looking for any & all types of presentations - historical, technical; professional, humorous, different styles or just plan fun. I (Steve Barnes) am hoping to get several that would be related to the New Orleans, LA area, but don't avoid trying to offer a presentation if you don't think of anything along those lines. That is just something I thought would be fun & relevant to the area.

I have had several offers so far for presentations from both local & foreign presenters. So remember to put the Oct. 6-9, 2016 Convention dates on your calendars & plan to stay

several extra days before &/ or after to enjoy all the great activities: Food; Music; History; Museums; Culture; Etc. This should be a Don't Miss Convention for all

Send your offer to do a presentation, no need to have a title/topic at this time, to me. Any other questions about the area or the convention can also come to me.

Steve Barnes
2016 Convention Chair
thesteve4@yahoo.com
Cell # (504) 319-8134

More on the Museum of the City of New York's "Magic Lantern" show

From Suzanne Wray

A blog from the Museum of the City of New York tells about the creation of the museum's video recreation of one of Jacob Riis's magic lantern shows with Terry Borton!



MCNY Blog:
New York Stories



Curator's Notepad:
Bonnie Yochelson on
How the Other Half
Lives

A tip from the guest curator of Jacob A. Riis: Revealing New York's Other Half: Lean in. The greatest curatorial challenge we faced in creating the Riis exhibition was the ...
[Continue reading →](#)

<http://blog.mcny.org/?s=Curator%E2%80%99s+Notepad>

17th Century Magic Lanterns

From Allison Bartlett

I'm hoping to find information on the mechanics of using slipper slides to create the illusion of movement (in the 17th c). Or any other sorts of slides that may have been used to create movement. Any further suggestions would be greatly appreciated.

By the way, I'm doing this research for a novel I'm working on. It's based on the true story of a 17th c ancestor of mine who worked as a glass painter. I've just contacted Edwin Carels, the author of that article you sent on animation and the danse macbre, so hopefully he can help, as well.

All the best,
Allison

As you know, I'm interested in magic lanterns of the 17th century. Specific questions include the following:

- 1) What images were projected at that time (besides the devil)?
- 2) Which kinds of slides were used to create the illusion of movement? (I understand that some were lined up in a row, others set into a circular disk. Were there others?)
- 3) Is there any written or illustrated record of shows/demonstrations? (I found Pepys's diary entry, but no others.)
- 4) Were the lanterns used for anything other than entertainment? I'm thinking of the members of the Royal Society, and how they may have used or planned to use the lantern for scientific purposes.
- 5) What kinds of ink and/or paint were used to create the slides?

6) Is there any record of a magic lantern being demonstrated in New England at that time?

As for my ancestor, all I know is that she made her living as a glass painter. When I discovered that magic lanterns existed during her lifetime, I was astounded and inspired. One of the joys of writing fiction is that I can decide what she painted--so magic lantern slides it is.

all the best,
Allison



Figure 1: Christiaan Huygens' sketches (1659)
Source: Leiden University Library, HUG 10 f076v

From David Evans

Hello Allison

It has fallen to my lot (and pleasure) to try to answer your questions!

I will take them in order:

1) Bearing in mind that the magic lantern is believed to have been first invented by the Dutch physicist Christiaan Huygens about 1659 as a medium for entertaining his kids, there was not a lot going on in that field at that time. He is also supposed to have created a moving skeleton slide for use in it. The lantern didn't really take off in popularity until the beginning of the 18th Century, and it was not until the arrival of the Argand oil illuminant around 1785 that lamps became powerful enough to allow anything other than a very small screen. Such slides as were produced in the late 17th Century would have been small and fairly crude as there was no way of projecting them at a size large enough to entertain more than a handful of people.

Bear in mind though that sorcerer-priests had been projecting images using oval concave mirrors with two foci since Biblical times. The Witch of Endor conjured the image of Samuel for Saul probably using this method. The priests used ghost-raising and other effects to terrify their flocks into believing. These however did not involve glass slides - with a dual-focus mirror an object placed at one focus will appear as a real image at the other, so live people would appear to move around and change size to the observer.

continued next page

17th Century Magic Lanterns continued

2) Slipping slides (with two glasses in the same frame) where one glass moves relative to the other were one of the first ways to impart movement on the screen. Rotating slides, lever ones etc didn't appear until well into the 19th Century.

3) I suggest you invest in Doctor Mervyn Heard's book 'Phantasmagoria', which covers the early use of the magic lantern in considerable detail (it was his PhD thesis).

4) Yes, they were used in a diverse range of fields, especially in the 19th Century - education, Church, scientific demonstrations etc

5) Only certain colours could be made transparent, so conventional oil paints were no use for lantern slides. The medium used was certainly more akin to inks than anything else.

6) If you mean in the 17th Century, I would say undoubtedly not. By the mid-18th Century most probably.

If your ancestor was painting on glass in the 17th Century then it was most probably in the field of portrait miniature images. Have a look at this Bonham's auction catalogue and you will find several dating from the 17th Century.

<http://www.bonhams.com/auctions/23248/>

If you find any further information on your ancestor's activities, such as when in the 17th Century she was active, do let us know!

Kind regards

David Evans
Secretary-Treasurer
MLS of US & Canada

Dear David,

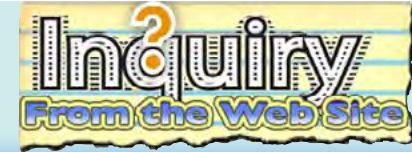
Thank you for your thorough response. Much obliged.

One question: were the slipping slides you described in use in the late 17th century? My ancestor left Boston for England in 1679, and the book covers the following dozen years she spent there.

I look forward to reading Phantasmagoria. This research is far more fun than writing. Thanks again for your help.

All the best,
Allison

<http://www.tmgonline.nl/index.php/tmg/article/view/2/51>



Magic Lantern for Hire

From Megan Atkinson

matkinson5494@gmail.com

I am an archivist. We have some lantern slides in our collection and I would like to have a show one evening viewing them. Where do I find a professional to both show these to a public audience.

I was just looking at your site again. Thank you very much for responding to me. We are located in South Florida at Everglades National Park. I saw two professions, but it looked like they had shows that they perform, which looked wonderful but would not really support the park mission. I am writing a grant which can include travel for a lanternist. We are an archives so we definitely need a professional that understands that we are also into preservation, so competent is fantastic :).

Thank you so much,

From David Evans

Hi Megan

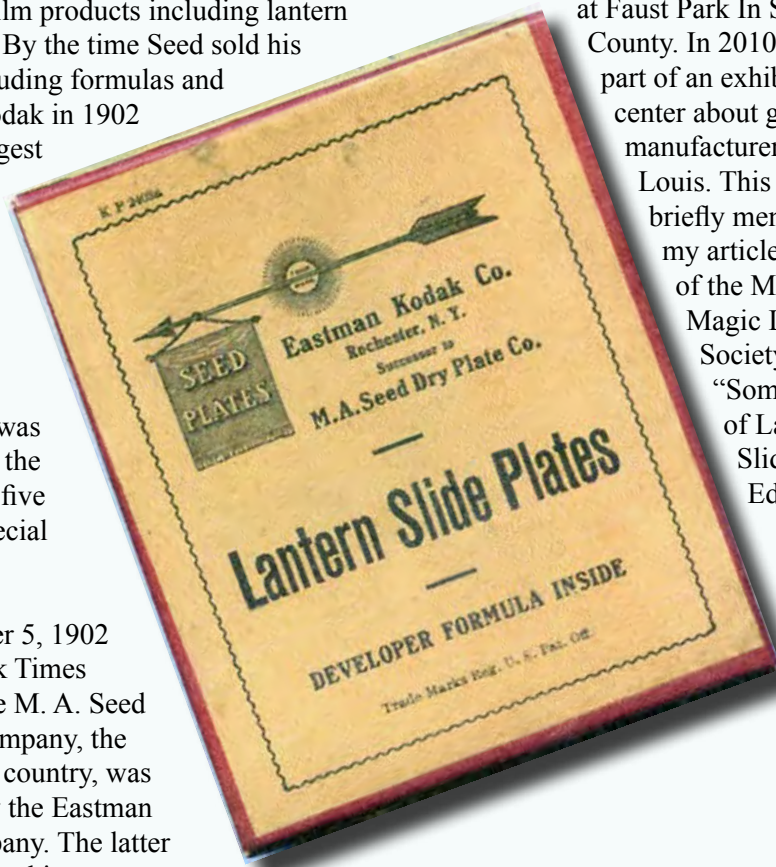
If you are creating a show from scratch, why not do a digital exhibition with a digital projector? It would be easier than lantern slides. You don't mention the theme of the display, but paying someone to make 3.25" x 4" slides from scratch would be expensive. If you really want to do that, our vice-president, Larry Cedarblom, is a fine graphics artist who could make you some wonderful slides, but as he is in Seattle WA would not be in a position to present them I imagine. I'm copying this to him.

Miles A. Seed Company

From Barbara Zucker

The M. A. Seed Dry Plate company was formed in St Louis, MO in 1882 and within ten years the company also produced many other film products including lantern slides plates. By the time Seed sold his business including formulas and patents to Kodak in 1902 it was the largest supplier of photography supplies in the Midwest. After selling his company to Eastman Kodak Seed was employed by the company for five years as a special advisor.

On September 5, 1902 the New York Times wrote that the M. A. Seed Dry Plate Company, the largest in the country, was purchased by the Eastman Kodak Company. The latter is said to be making overtures to other large businesses in order to obtain control of the U. S. dry-plate industry.



The carriage house, the only remaining building from the former Seed estate, is now the park office and visitor center at Faust Park In St. Louis County. In 2010-11 I was part of an exhibit at the center about glass plate manufacturers in St. Louis. This exhibit was briefly mentioned in my article on page 2 of the March 2011 Magic Lantern Society News "Some History of Lantern Slide Use in Education."

Barbara

Checkout This Online Article

From Julie L. Mellby



<http://www.britishartstudies.ac.uk/issues/issue-index/issue-1/lantern-slide>



Gazette Online Address

From Kentwood Wells

The online address that I had in my Zotero site to access issues of the Gazette online directly has changed slightly. This should take you to it:

<http://library.sdsu.edu/scua/digital/resources/magic-lantern-pubs/gazette>

Book Sale

These books were donated to the society by Judie Shape with proceeds to go to the society. These are some of the books from Ralph's collection.

Commit To Buy

Contact Larry at designerlc@comcast.net to reserve your purchase.

Payments

Payment may be made by US\$ check (to Magic Lantern Society of US & Canada) or by PayPal (US\$ funds please!) to: secretary-treasurer@magiclanternsociety.org Upon receipt of payment, notice will be given to Larry to ship.

Shipping and Delivery

Contact Larry if you are outside the United States to arrange shipping and cost. Payment for shipping is in addition to cost of book.

Most are in great condition, see those noted with minor damage. If you need more information about a particular title it is easy to find information on line about these books.

Legend

\$0 Sale price

★ Other than English language

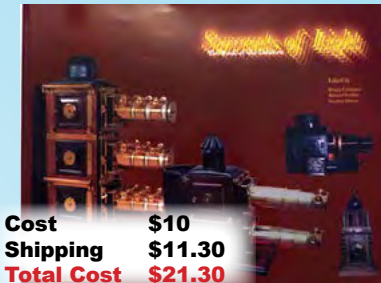
Questions

Any questions email
Larry at

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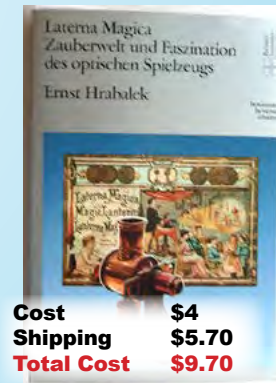
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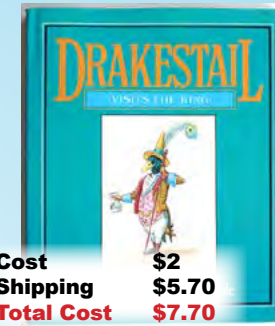
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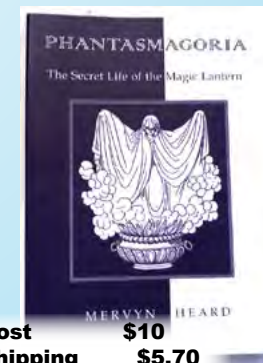
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Magic Lantern Article in The Northern Light

From Eric Stott

The current issue of "The Northern Light", the publication of the Scottish Rite, Northern Jurisdiction, has a front cover article "Magic Lanterns In The Lodge" by Ymelda Rivera Laxton of the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum (Museum of our National Heritage). It is nicely illustrated. <http://www.monh.org/>

<http://www.scottishritenmj.org/members-center/the-northern-light>

The Secret Society Lantern:

Magic Lanterns in the Lodge

By YMEIDA RIVERA LAXTON

Magic lanterns, in their most basic form, were invented in the 1600s and are considered a precursor to the modern slide projector and even the motion picture. These lanterns were a mainstay in Masonic lodges throughout the world in the 1800s and early 1900s because they were a useful tool in making members aware of Freemasonry and initiatory rites. The Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library in Lexington, MA, owns a large collection of magic lanterns and glass lantern slides, many of which were donated by Masonic and fraternal groups including the Knights Templar, Knights of Pythias, and Odd Fellows. The slides vary from those specific to Freemasonry to those depicting events in world history, literary and biblical scenes, folktales, and photographs.

Masonic and fraternal lectures constituted many of the magic lantern presentations given in the Victorian period. An example of the wide use of lanterns and slides in Masonic and fraternal organizations can be seen in the numbers quoted by the 2010 Supreme Secretary of the Knights of Pythias, who suggested that every knight/lodge at the turn of the 20th century had a lantern.

Like tracing boards, magic lantern slides were used in lodge instruction as visual aids. They used Masonic symbols to illustrate the principles embedded in the degrees of Freemasonry, helping candidates associate an image with an idea. Often, Masonic slide sets were simply images of past tracing boards printed on glass slides.

Brief History of the Magic Lantern

Several scientists and mathematicians developed projection devices in the 1600s, including Thomas Willebrordus and Christiaan Huygens. Although Huygens is credited with inventing the magic lantern, it was Willebrordus, a Dutch mathematician, who coined the term "Magic Lantern" and began conducting lantern demonstrations throughout Europe. In the late 1700s,



Lantern from the Michigan Railway and Optical Co., 1840, Michigan Railway and Optical Co., Chicago, IL, Gift of Grant H. Brown

Etienne-Gaspard Robertson, a Belgian physicist and stage magician, started to "conjure" ghosts for audiences. These shows lay the foundation for the popular late-1700s phantasmagoria lantern shows that featured skeletons, devils, and ghosts. Aside from these entertainment spectacles, the lanterns were also used for science, education, and religious instruction by wealthy academics and Jesuit priests.

As the lantern became more popular and readily available, traveling lanternists could be found lecturing public

The Lantern Today

Although decades have passed since the use of magic lanterns, slides, and even slide projectors, a fascination with the technology, wonderment, and artistry of the lanterns and slides exists today. There are several magic lantern publications, thousands of lanterns and slides in museum collections across the world, and a society dedicated to the collection, preservation, and study of magic lanterns. Some lodges still use lantern slide imagery in presentations and lectures today. For example, Jerusalem Lodge, No. 104, in New Hampshire uses lantern slide images in presenting the history section of its Master Mason degree.

Lantern slides are but one example of the visual storytelling inherent in Freemasonry and fraternal societies and are an interesting component of Masonic material culture. The lanterns and slides present a glimpse into the education of candidates and members during the late 1800s and early 1900s.

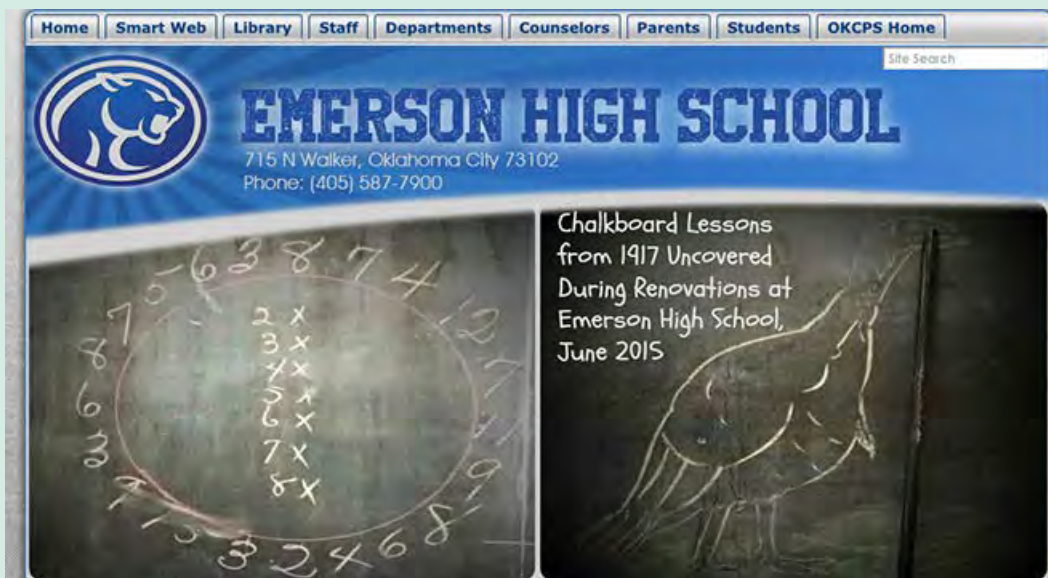


Magic Lantern, ca. 1890, unidentified maker, United States, Gift of the Estate of Gerard Dallas Jenks, Photo by David Bohl.

100 Year Old Chalk Boards

From Steve Barnes

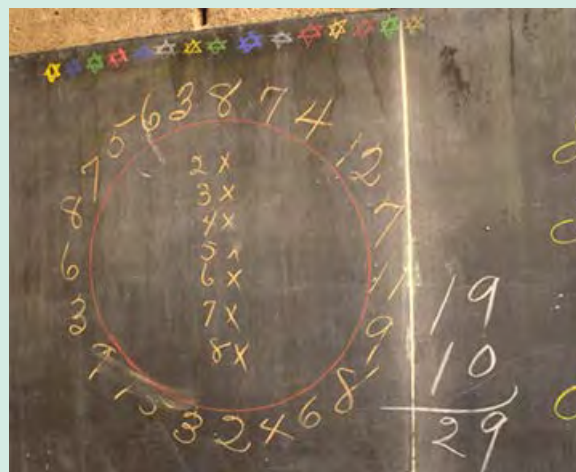
<http://okcps.emersonmhs.schooldesk.net/>



When contractors began work on four classrooms of Emerson High School, they knew their remodel would improve education — but they never expected it would impact local history.

Looking to upgrade the rooms with new whiteboards and smartboards, the workers had to first remove the outdated chalkboards. But when they began to pull away the old boards, they made a startling discovery ...

A multiplication table gives us a glimpse into the curriculum and methods taught in 1917, techniques perhaps lost in the passage of time. When regarding a wheel of multiplication, Principal Sherry Kishore told The Oklahoman, "I have never seen that technique in my life."

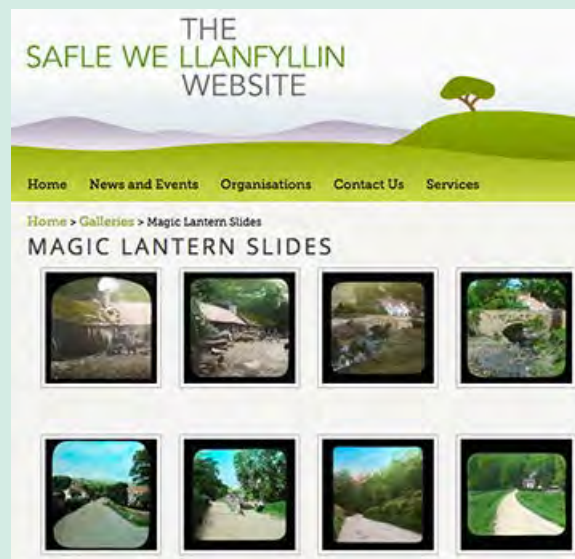


Oklahoma Public School
Two dates were found on the boards: November 30, 1917, and December 4, 1917.

December 16, 1920



Site With Some Fine Magic Lantern Slides



<http://llanfyllin.org/image-galleries/magic-lantern-slides/>



A Big Thank You to the following:

Megan Atkinson
Steve Barnes
Allison Bartlett
Julie L. Mellby
Judie Shape
Teresa Stanton
Eric Stott
Kentwood Wells
Suzanne Wray
Barbara Zucker

for contributing to this months issue.

Now it's your turn to share!

Do you have a favorite site or a collection of images you would like to share with the rest of the society?

If your answer is yes! Send site information or your images to Larry and they will be shared in the next E-pub newsletter.

E-mail Larry



Molar Patent Lantern Slide Cabinet

From Teresa Stanton

**donation of
magic lantern
slide cabinet to
anyone willing
make delivery
arrangments**



Molar Patent Lantern Slide Cabinet

- approx size 4 feet x 14 inch
- weight ? {assuredly heavy}
- 20 slide trays
- re-spined in 2005 by previous owner
- 2 bottom full length pull out drawers
- intact on slide trays curiously charming.

- excellent restoration of trays
- original library labels still

Overall condition is sturdy and magnificent with exception to a wood split in upper cabinet top insert , split does not inhibit tray mobility it is in fact more a cosmetic issue rather than deterioration in functionality.

Truly a unique piece I have enjoyed it for storing my paper collectibles however it is deserving to be adopted into a preservation magic lantern collection. My preference is to gift it to a proper home willing to negotiate pickup or package and delivery. I don't mind to hold onto the piece if someone is traveling from afar to the 2016 New Orleans convention and should wish to pick it up while in route. I will do my best to answer questions within reference to the cabinet via email or phone either is fine.

Teresa Stanton
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Murphysboro IL 62966
618-687-2728
teresa@halfstreetstudio.com



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